

# Sheep Industry

## Don I. Davis

1 Tape #

February 10, 2006

Interviewers: Doris K. Burton and Ellen S. Kiever

The interview start with Doris and Don talking about the sheep industry over around Douglas Pass area and the bears that uses to roam there.

Don: The bears will kill a bunch of them. Anyway, they said, well Ern said, "Well, ya we'll do that. Cause them dang bears was a killin' fifteen to twenty head of sheep ever' night on the bed grounds. Any way it wound up they never did come up there, on the bed grounds, I'd move from one camp spot to another. It seems like they was 123 head of sheep them bears had killed.

Louise: All the profit, huh?

Doris: Well, when we went up there Guy Karren, do you remember Guy? He was Dave's boy and Dave had just died. He went up there with dad, he killed a bear up there at Sawmill but that is the only one that we ever saw.

Don: Oh would it! Oh I don't know, but man they were thick when I was up there.

Doris: I used to ride up that trail through Sawmill and up to Columbine almost every day on my horse and I never did see any [bears].

Don: All of my camp sites, say they were right on the top back there, ya know. They was one, say one sheep camp site on the east side of Baxter's Pass and we'll say probably three or four on the west side and all of em' right up on top. That, they was an old wagon road from the top of Baxter Pass and it went around the south side clear over and they was a place where you could drop off. I never go over that fur. They was a place where they'd drop off and go down to Allen, he married Velda Gentry, Gentry and them. That road went down to their ranch and say on towards Ranglely, I mean Dragon. That's funny that you guys never seen no bear the next summer, only that one up around Sawmill then.

Doris: Maybe we just didn't look as good.

Don: Well, you never had nothing to be scared about.

Louise: Maybe you had killed them all by then.

Don: No, I never messed with em'. I told ol Vic and Ern, them bear can eat that whole herd up. I ain't goin' to mess with em'. I said, "I'm not goin' to shoot at em'. I don't want em' a comin' in my tent after me."

Doris: Now didn't Ernest boy get killed in the service?

Don: Ya, in World War II, I don't think they ever found his body. I think he was missin'. Anyway, as I recall he stepped my sister, Flora, quite a bit cause Flora was workin' at Bonanza, we'll call it a café. At Big Bonanza, they had that place that people, the workers, ete'. My sister worked there for several years for Theo, oh Meryl Bodily and Owen ran this boardin' house toward the latter part of it and then Theo and Stan Morrison, they ran it. That was a brother-in-law and a sister to

Vida \_\_\_\_\_ and them. They ran it several years and Flora worked there and then Ernie got to steppin' Flora and he had a brand new Chevrolet convertible and then they'd come to Vernal quite often in it. He'd pick her up there and they'd come to Vernal and that was the car I drove. I think that's the biggest reason that I went to the ranch house every day was to get to drive that car. That was somethin' I hadn't had the privilege of ever doin'.

Doris: Are you set up now? Directed to Ellen.

Ellen: I hope we are recording!

Ellen: We are at 1200 West Main Street at the home of Don and Louise Davis in Vernal, Utah today. We are recording the history of Mr. and Mrs. Don I. Davis.

Ellen: Don, would you tell us about where you were born and your parents and dates that might be important to you, your family, brothers and sisters.

Don: I couldn't find my genealogy stuff to get my dad's date of birth and my mother's. But anyway, I was born 21 September 1925 in Vernal, Utah. Anyway, we lived at Lapoint all my life, up til' when I turned eighteen. Then we lived on a farm just one mile south of Lapoint. All of my life when people ask me, "Where ya from?" I always say, "South Lapoint." Anyway, I went to grade school in Lapoint for my eight years of grade school.

Ellen: Do you remember any of your teachers?

Don: A, just sorta a few of em'. Like, we'll say, Principal Luke Clegg was the principal; then we'll say, Althea Bain was the office girl. Jess Hullinger, he was the shop and ag teacher, which he taught me, say two or three year of the four years of high school. Say, Frank Walker from Vernal here, he came to Alterra and he was a teachin' Seminary. I went two years to seminary from him. Then they was a Mrs. Burgess that taught Home Economics. We were thick, one of my best buddies through high school, like Lynn Labrum from Roosevelt, why we used to catch her in the kitchen an' hold her. One of us would kiss her and the other one. Anyway, I haven't seen her now for about ten years. But everytime we had a class reunion she would always say that, I know Lynn, we would always say that we enjoyed it. She'd say, "Well, I kind a didn't but now I do." Then goin to high school I was Chief of Police, the last two years of high school.

Louise: And should I tell you he still thinks he' the chief of police.

Don: Elroy Walker from Lapoint, he was my deputy. I was Lynn Labrum's deputy but he had a nice automobile. He always had a car to drive to high school and he an Eula Hullinger would go off at noon hour to spoon, I guess. Anyway, Luke, the principal, would come to me and say, "Where's Lynn?" I would say, "Boy, I just seen him a little while ago. He's here somewhere." "Well, I can't find him, no place." Anyway, Luke fired him from bein' Chief of Police and then give me the job and then I hired Elroy. Anyway, that made it good cause when we lived in Lapoint we was the poor of the poorest. And what I mean, we were poor.

Ellen: Wasn't everybody poor, you didn't know that you were poor.

Don: No, us kids we didn't know it. After I got growed up why I can remember the people that was lots better off than we were. Like the Huston's, the Coltharp's, Lynn Labrum, and the Huber kids in Lapoint, why they had sheep which you didn't make much money off em' sheep but they had money when they needed it. Anyway, I lived in Lapoint all them years and in them days the snow it would get four feet deep. It's not like it is now. I had to ride the bus to school. When I graduated from elementary school in Lapoint then I went to Alterra and Rex Taylor drove our bus for quite few of them years. Chuck Glines he drove it a year of so. Harvey Glines from Tridell, why he drove it a year or so.

Doris: Did you ever get in trouble on the bus?

Don: Oh yah! Got throwed off many times.

Doris: Well, lets hear about that.

Don: Ya, well we had a bad habit, say in the fall of the year when them cattails would seed out and get ripe. The had that fuzz, well we used to go to school and say that night when we'd come home, why we'd have one of these cattails in a paper sack and we wouldn't rub the sack and fine it all up and then we'd whale it from somewhere on the bus up towards the mirror that the bus driver had that looked us all over. Boy, he'd have to put them brakes on and stop cause that fuzz would just be in there, just all over. Anyway, it seems like I got kicked off the bus a time or two for being blamed for that. That time I didn't do it but I got the blame for it. Anyway, we survived that. Then in them days, why old Bill Gad, he was from Lapoint, he used to be a we'll say a fighter. Man, he would jump on them bus drivers and slug it out with em and wrestle em', you know right on the bus. Then they would throw him off and then his mother and dad would get him reinstated. Them was the mean stuff.

Ellen: Was he kind of a Bully or What!

Don: No, he really wasn't a bully but if somebody was a lookin' for problems he was available.

Doris: He was that way all his life.

Don: Just for instance, with him, right here in Vernal like he was say a livin out of Pop's Place out on the other side of Dinosaur, Colorado. They was a place called Pop's Place just before you get to Blue Mountain. Anyway, they was Stu Tanner that drove the coal truck, he had a big truck and he hauled coal for his father-in-law, like Gene Staley, from the Staley Coal Mine out south of and a little more east of Blue Mountain. Anyway this Bill Gad and him, one time, they started at the Pig Stand [77 East Main] here in Vernal, which is the 7-11 Café just east of where Doris [67 East Main] is now and they all they done was punched each other in the belly from there to fifth east, down one side of the street and back on the other one. I mean they punched each other in the belly each time. They done that one time and I watched it and I mean ol' Bill he just liked to do that. Stu, he liked to do that to. He was a mean ol' boy. How we doin'?

Ellen: Oh, your doin fine. This just surprises me because I remember Stu Tanner from the Vernal Cemetery and he was just this nice little mellow man.

Don: Ya, he was a nice guy. After I graduated, why from high school, I worked two winters at Staley's Coal mine and anyway like Stu would let me ride from Vernal out there and then he'd bring me home on weekends. I learnt to know Stu really good and then Gene Staley, too.

Doris: Tell us a little about that Staley Mine. How did it operate?

Don: Well, they had a cook shack and Joe and Mrs. Boren, Jack and Boyd Boren's mother, I'd think of her name later.

Doris: Was it Kate?

Don: Kate! Ya, they used to run the Gateway Saloon second, and anyway, I worked out there to this mine and they had cabins for the men to sleep in. Then we would walk from there up to the cook shack and eat every night and every morning.

Ellen: Was the food good?

Don: Oh man ya! Especially for me. Kate and Joe took a loving interest into me. Their kids were both in the Army and so they took me in as their son we'll call it. I didn't eat with the other men. They always had me come up after they got done and eat with them. So I got lots of steaks that the workin' men didn't get. Anyway, out at that coal mine, you'd go to work and they had cart and cart had one horse to pull it and anyway then you'd have this horse and you would get up in the cart and drive that horse down to the bottom of the mine, where ever the coal was. They had coal on the east side and coal on the west side.

Doris: Was this inside of the shaft?

Don: Ya, the shaft went down they was that coal and then to the side they was another bunch of coal. The one side of the mine had a quite a bit of moisture in the coal and it didn't burn as good as the other side so they would mix it and make it all good coal. Anyway you'd get in the back of this cart and go down through there you had a carbine lamp on your head and anyway you'd bounce on that cart and maybe your light would bounce off n' your head and the horse would hit say a mine prop head on and then you would just go flyin' and you'd have to gather yourself up and relight your light and get the horse and the cart and go on down.

Ellen: How many rode in the cart.

Don: Just one. When the miners went to work why they rode down in the cart and then they had to walk out. The horse had all it could pull comin' out and anyway then say we'll just like Lynn Holmes and Oral Wooley and anyway we'd get that cart and then come out of the mine and then up on top they would have to back the horse up and let this cart dump off, sort of, in the bin. The coal would slide out of the cart and if you weren't careful that horse would just keep backin' up

and it would wind up down in the coal bin to and then it would take hours to get the horse out. Anyway, I done that two winters out there. Well, I done that one winter and then the next winter Carl Staley, he went and become a Deputy Sheriff for Herb Snyder and I took his place with Bob Harper from Blue Mountain and doin' the cuttin' and shootin' at night. We would shoot on one side of the mine on one night and then on the next night we'd shoot on the other side. That was spooky cause some of the shots wouldn't go off and you'd sit there and wait and wait. Finally it would go off and I was happy cause if you would have been over there when it went off it might have blew coal all over you, knocked you out, killed you or somethin'. I always lucked out, me and this Bob, anyway then when it would come Friday night why we'd come home for the weekend.

Doris: When you lived over to Lapoint, was it your dad or your grandfather that had that store?

Don: My Dad.

Doris: Tell us a little bit about that.

Don: On that Doris, I was to young. Where we lived in Lapoint all of my life, my eighteen years there, why that was first named Taft and that was Lapoint become. Taft was right where our property was on the west side of the canal, a mile south of town. Anyway, my dad, when they moved from Taft to Lapoint why then my dad ran the store at Lapoint. Anyway I was to young to know anything about the store. All I know is that things didn't go to good, we'll say and we'll say dad kind a went broke in it, not because of him but because of partners. The partners broke him the same way my dad had a herd of sheep or two back, I don't remember nothin' about it, but anyway he had these herd of sheep and got beat out of one of them. Like an old boy wanted to run em' for him one summer so my dad let him and that fall when he was to turn the sheep back the guy told my dad, "I don't have a one of em' left." They disappeared. Up at Lapoint, when I was a kid, the only people I remember was say Thelma Winn and Mae Sprouse a runnin' the store and the post office over there, you know, and then George Bigelow. This George Bigelow, say, he was a brother to the Bigelow, you know Stewart Bigelow here, Nyle Bigelow they were Charley's kids and this George was a brother to them and he ran one of the stores. Thelma and Golden Winn and Mae Sprouse, they ran the Post Office and the Store. Art Taylor always run the beer joint over there.

Doris: Did you go in there?

Don: I was to young, but I went in there lookin' for people.

Ellen: Earlier when we talked we talked about you meeting my dad [Milt Searle]. Where bouts did you live from the house that Uncle Grand and Aunt Celestia Rasmussen have in Lapoint.

Don: Well, say right there at the first intersection there in Lapoint. The little grocery store is there on the north side of the road right barely through the intersection. Then the post office is down probably a full block from there but you turned to the left to the south right there at that intersection and you went down one mile exactly and then you turned back to the west say maybe about 400 yards. Our house was right there in them trees and the canal crossed the road right west of our house.

Ellen: Do you know anything about the town of Liberty?

Don: That would be Tridell.

Doris: Did you ever find your dad's tokens from his store?

Don: I know I've got em'. That would be the Hen Lee token. I know I've got em' but I've just never say been to Provo or Orem and went through the safety box. I haven't done that. All Louise's folks lived out there and that is the last time that I ever looked in that box but I've still got them tokens. I still think about it. When I go out there I'm so glad to get through and get back to Vernal cause I

don't waste time. I had some of ol' Hen Lee's wooden tokens and they were a pretty nice token, you know. I wound up, I give all of his kids one of em.' Like Ned and Gloria one. I give Wilma one after Clyde died. Then I give the other boy one, I don't recall his name right now. He drove water truck. I give him one and then I had, I don't know say, maybe a half a dozen more of em' and I just haven't done it but maybe before I die I might get one of em' delivered.

Doris: Well you better live a long time.

Louise: He is lucky to be alive. He is a cancer survivor.

Ellen: What type of cancer did you have?

Don: Lymphoma, or what ever you call it. I had it in the teeth and jawbone, the gum bone and this eye **Right or Left** and my voice box. Dr. Karen **Olbriton** at the Huntsman Center, we'll say I went to her just about the first day of January of 2001 and the very first day that we went in that hospital and we had a meeting with her and she looked at me. She told I and Louise and I don't know, they probably tell everybody that, but she said, "Don, if you'll do what I want you to do and do it. I think I can pull you through it. I told her, " I didn't have much choice. That I would do exactly what she said." I tried to everythin' that woman said. Like I told you the other day, why, I go back out to the Huntsman Center 18 May 2006 for another six months check-up and if I'm okay that day, which I'm sure I will be cause my body don't change, that will make me the five full years cancer free. The chances of it comin' back won't be! My good cancer doctor, she transferred to Boston and so I have a new one. When I go out, say May, the eighteenth well that will be a year and a half that she has been my doctor and I think that she is a wonderful doctor too.

Ellen: What is her name?

Don: Martha Glenn, Doctor Martha Glenn. Anyway, both of em' there young doctors and anyway I really think they know what there a doin,. This Huntsman Cancer Center now why it's really nice but all through my cancer part you might say was in before they rebuilt all of their new hospital and everythin'. If you had to stay overnight or have much done, why you had to go to the University Hospital to do that. In this new one why if you have to stay over night, why they put you up for the night. They take good care of you. I've never had to stay over night.

Ellen: How did you meet your better half?

Don: oooh! Like, say my last year of high school, President Frank Walker of Seminary wanted me to take be the curtain puller and I went to the graduation exercises and after they presented the diplomas, we'll call em', graduation diplomas why then they had a program and anyway I was the curtain puller and I had the curtain closed and then when I opened it why Louise was to be the, she had been chosen to be the one to give the speech of the year. I opened that curtain and she was that. I kept a lookin' over there and I thought "Boy, I hadn't met that gal yet." I'm goin' to have to try to meet her. So anyway it worked around and I found out that she was from Neola and so anyway I had been steppin' another girl from Neola and I went over there this one night and well this was the same night that I graduated from high school and this happened. Well, I went over to Neola and they was havin' a picture show or somthin' at the chapel so anyway I stopped there and Louise come by and more or less maybe I says, "You know where Glenda is?"

Louise: That's what you said all right.

Don: And Louise says but she may of went to the show to Roosevelt. So anyway, I asked her if she wanted to go to the show to Roosevelt and she accepted and went in...

Louise: We were on the sidewalk, we still had to go in.

Don: Ya that's right, so anyway, I had my mother's Model A Ford sedan, it had two spare tires, one on each front fender, and four on the ground and we headed to Roosevelt. Anyway, before I ever got to the second hill goin' off down towards Roosevelt, you'll never believe, but we had had six flat tires in that length of time and then I had took the tire off and off of the rim and patched it and put it back and patched some of em' back up. Finally we decided that we had to give that up. So I turn around and go back to Neola. Donald Rasmussen from Lapoint, he had a girlfriend from over there and maybe Roy Foster too. We took the girls home, boy before I got back to Lapoint I was runnin' on all four rims, there was no tires left. This was in the hours of the morning, I just got in the yard with the car when Art Wooley, who I was going to herd sheep for the next morning at four o'clock, drove up in front of the house. I ran in and I my sack of clothes ready to go herdin' sheep. I went herdin' sheep and then when I come home on, say a week off or somethin', why then I stepped Louise then, but anyway this was in 1943 and we never got married until 1946.

Ellen: What took you so long?

Don: Oh just workin'.

Louise: We done a lot of dancin' though.

Don: Went dancin'.

Ellen: You steady dated all that time?

Don: Well, she probably went with lots of guys but I was a pretty good kid.

Louise: That's cause you was at the sheep camp.

Don: But anyway, then we, say in 1946, me and Al Woehrmann, we done a lot of rough neckin' out to the Ranglely oil boom from the start of that boom to the biggest end of the drillin' was over. We ran around together and Al had nice car. We'll say, I was steppin' Louise and he was steppin' Leola and we went to them dances and then I done a lot of sleeping on the job. Anyway, I would sleep all the way from here to Ranglely and then I would probably average six hour sleep on the job. I would come home and then party, we'll say, until it was time to go back to work the next time. We really only had one Saturday night off every six weeks. The rest of the time we was a workin'.

Louise: You'll have to tell em' about what happened to you down in Jensen one night.

Don: Ya, later. Me and Al, he worked on one rig and I worked on another one. Anyway, we'd always be off the same days. We'll say, finish that story the wife mentioned, I would sleep all the way out and all the way back and by this time I had moved down and rented a little apartmen from Lee Bennion and Bea down on the corner [800 East Main]. Ruby Valora had that fruit stand there for years. Anyway, I had a little apartment upstairs and then Bea cooked for me. Me and Al lived in different rooms there and Bea took in renters. This one night we went to work at four o'clock in the afternoon in Ranglely and then get off at twelve and it would be about one thirty when they'd get me home, on the corner down there. So they pulled up this one night, woke me up, and said, "Don, you're home" and I just woke up a little, grabbed my lunch bucket and got out. When I got out why they took off in a hurray. Art MacKnight was a driven'. I started across the road and thought, "Boy, this ain't right." It took me a little while and I turned and looked back where I come from and I decided that was the Jensen church house. They had let me out there and I turned walked across the street towards Ella and Nile Ainge's house and decided somethin' was wrong. I went back and thought, "Boy, them old kids, they pulled a trick on me". I didn't know, maybe they got mad at me or maybe they'd come back. Anyway, finally I had started to walk towards Vernal, a car or two had come all directions, but no pick-up. Finally, a car come from the Vernal way down towards that church house and anyway when it got close enough I could tell that it was Art's car. The whipped around and laughed and picked me back up and brought me back up to Bea

Bennion's and let me out. That was quite an experience of bailin' out not knowin' for a minute where you were.

Ellen: So did you stay awake from then on?

Don: No! I needed that sleep back and forth. Back in them days, why you had a car, you know, and all you did all long was drag Main Street from about where McDonald's is right here and you would drag it clear down to say the other side of the Gateway Saloon and you would turn around and come back. That is all you did all day long. I needed that sleep so I could do that all the time I was off work.

Ellen: You said you rented a room. Do you remember how much you rented the room for?

Don: Boy, I don't remember. I would say probably \$7.50 a week, but on the meals it probably maybe ran it back up to probably \$15.00 a week.

Doris: Bea was a good cook.

Don: Yah! Bea was a good cook. Cooked just good meals. When I had my eye put out with a BB gun in 1939, why I went to Salt Lake. I was in the St. Mark's Hospital, the old one, not the new one, the one out kind of west of the temple somewhere right in there. Out in the garage in the junk that I moved from that other house up here, why, I have a bill in it that the St. Marks Hospital sent my mother and anyway it was for somethin' like about \$28.00 for all the time that I was in the hospital out there. I was in that hospital quite a little while on the eye.

Ellen: Tell us how you lost your eye.

Louise: Tell them how you lost your eye.

Don: Oh, I used to sell the "Grit" paper [newspaper]. Don't know whether you have ever heard of it. Doris would. Anyway, it was just a little old paper, say similar to the Vernal Express, but it was national. I sold it, I don't know, I probably had twenty-eight customers all over Lapoint. I used to deliver em' like by foot and by the horse and I'd saved and saved. Seemed like you made about a nickel on each one of em' and then I'd worked that summer hoeing weeds for Lloyd Taylor and Wilma Taylor, hoein' corn patches, any way I got enough money to buy a bicycle from the ol' Gambles store here in Vernal, there next to where your dad probably had his store, no! Your dad probably took it over, the old Gambles store, Milt ran a little store by it or near the same place and I took and bought me a new bicycle. I invited lots of the kids over at Lapoint to come down and ride that bicycle and we were livin' down with Jim Marjadakis then. My mother and us and we had a big circle drive way and anyway we took turns ridin' that bike. We had an old BB gun. Lyle Perry got to shootin' it, puttin' rocks in it from the ant bed. Anyway, I pulled up right in front of him to finish my ride. When I pulled up I turned and looked at him, why we'll say accidentally, he pulled that trigger on that gun and hit me in the pupil with that rock.

Louise: I tell him that he is the only man that I know that really has a rock in his head.

Ellen: It's still there?

Don: Ya. On that eye deal, like I say we was the poorest of the poor. Before my mother could fix up to get me to Salt Lake why I never got to Salt Lake until about eight o'clock the next day. By that time, my head had swelled up and then I had to stay in the hospital three or four day waitin' for doctors **Seplantsky**, an old Russian doctor. He come from the Boston Building there in uptown Salt Lake. He had to get the swellin' all out of it before he could operate. He took my eye out and then when it was all over why then I took and got a glass eye. I've wore a artificial eye since 1939.

Ellen: If they would have got you Salt Lake sooner would they have been able to save your eye.



Don: No. My mother got to Magalene Hansen over there, a neighbor and she took her tongue and  
Louise: It's surprising that you didn't get an infection real good.

Don: and wiped acrossed it with her tongue and she could feel where that rock went directly in the pupil and then they loaded me up and took me down to Ft. Duchesne. The Indians had sort of a doctor down there and he looked at it and he said, "Boy, you had better get him to Salt Lake as quick as you can. By that time, I got out there about eight o'clock the next morning. Anyway, then they operated on it. Standard Optical Company fixed me up with a glass eye. Every time I turned around, it seemed like, they cost \$7, one of them. Everytime I took it out to wash it, morning after morning, I'd drop that thing in hand pan that you would wash your hands in, not the sink, cause we had a bucket of water and you'd dip the water from there into a pan and wash, you know. I 'd drop that eye and it would hit something and go into a million pieces. One year, why, I was workin' for Kerr McGee Drilling Company and for Christmas, they give me a \$50 bonus and anyway a plastic eye cost \$40 then. I just sent that \$40 to Denver Optical Company. They sent me ten eyes at a time. I would fit the ones I thought that I wanted until I found one I didn't want. If I found one I didn't want and if I didn't find one I would send them ten back. They would send me ten more. Anyway, this one was one of em'. This is the first plastic eye that I ever had. It has been a dandy.

Ellen: Well, bless your heart. I'm amazed. I did not even know all of that.

Don: It wiggles a little bit like when I look to the left and then to the right and then up and down. It moves some. Its always been there.

Ellen: I just thought you had a funny eye. Kind of like that Jack Elam's eye. So you got married in 1946.

Doris: Where bouts'?

Don: Say the nineteenth of this month will make us sixty years and we're both still alive.

Louise: We went to Las Vegas to get married.

Doris: Where did you get married there?

Don: A little chapel, they used to have little chapel's, sort of all over town. We went to one of these little chapels and a nice ol' kid

Louise: Minister.

Don: Well, ya a minister married us and we needed two witnesses. Anyway, they was a couple there and they was both drunk. The lady kept tellin' him, "I don't want to get married. I want to be like they are."

Louise: "I don't want to get married like we are. I want to get married like they are." They was drunk, our witnesses.

Don: Anyway, they signed our thing [license]. They was really funny like, before I left Lapoint to go down there to get married, I took my mother down to Hayden Foster, a notary public, and had Hayden make out a piece of paper saying, "To whom this may concern. It's alright if my son, Don I. Davis, gets married." I had my mother sign it and I signed it. Hayden notarized it. I took it with me and we got down there and we went up to the courthouse the first thing to get a license. The people up to the courthouse, why they said, " Louise, we have got to have some identification from you." Well, she had left her purse in Neola, nothin, Boy they thrashed it from room to room and finally they said, " If Don's got a notarized piece of paper that it was going to be okay for him to get married, well somebody had to know that he was going to marry Louise and they finally said, That will be fine. We'll accept it."

Ellen: So how old were you when you got married?

Don: I wasn't of age. I was twenty year old and she was nineteen. She was of age but never had no identification. I wasn't of age so that is why I had to have what I got from Hayden Foster, the notary public. We got that done, I don't know, but I think the license cost \$12. Then a dollar for them to put it in the book. Then we went down to the little chapel and got married. We got back up say about where Mesquite is comin' home and I blew a tire. Say, no money, but Louise had a little money so we spent her money from there on home.

Ellen: What kind of a car were you driving?

Don: A 1940 Ford four door sedan. Them '40' Ford's back then, they were really popular. Just like here in this town, why in them car shows, you see lots of 40 Fords, I always wished that I had kept that one. I didn't. Anyway, then if you go to big cities say like Los Angeles down there where, who makes that make-up for you women to primp with? But anyway, he has lots of old cars in his building and boy there was lots of "40" Fords in it. They just really were popular. That's what we were drivin'.

Ellen: So when you came back, you went to work. What kind of work did you do?

Don: I was a rough-neckin'. Oh! That's what I was a goin' to tell you a while ago. Why, I was a rough-neckin and this was just before we was a goin' to get married. Like I told you I liked to sleep, at least six hours out and back and on the job, you know. I laid down, we had what we called a dog house where you changed your clothes on a drillin' rig to go to work, in them days, why it set out a little ways from the rig, anyway I went out there and I laid down on this bench and there was only about fourteen or fifteen inches wide, wooden bench, and I laid down on it on my side and I had my hand over like that, over the edge and the edge of that bench pushed up on that nerve and I laid there sleepin' anyway that nerve went to sleep. It took six weeks for that nerve to get better. Dr. Eskelson told me it would take six weeks for that nerve to come out of it. So I decided I would just go and get married.

Louise: Since he couldn't work.

Ellen: So you were off from work.

Don: I was off from work on Workin Comptinsation Fund (Worker's Compensation Fund) and so we went to Vegas and got married. Anyway, that probably took up most of the six weeks that it took to come out of it to go back to work. We rented a little bit in town and then we built us a little two rooms house down on 261 East and 400 South. The summer before that, well a couple of summers before that, well Laughlin Brothers never did give a vacation to nobody but me and ol' Al Woehrmann we went down to the office when the big shots come out from Oklahoma City. We asked them if they wouldn't give us a vacation so we could go up to Oak's Park and cut logs, trees down, dead ones, cause we wanted to build us each a house and they swallowed it. They said, "We'll do that for ya'." So they give us two weeks vacation and we went up, me and her, Al and Leola, and we cut them trees down but not with chain saws. This was them great big long saw with a handle on each end. We cut em' down with that and logged em' up. We got Carl Hansen, a kid and we borrowed a horse from Al's sister, Mary and John Preece, down in Jensen. Took it up and he drug all the logs in to where we wanted em' so we could load em' and haul em' to Vernal. Anyway, we got them logs all down and we had to haul them down after that. Freestone's had a little sawmill, up here across maybe from the walking park, and we hauled em' in there and Mark and Jimmy Freestone they cut em' up into house logs for us. We built houses down where we used to live. Ralph and Lesca Hall had a house right between us. Now there is one more house down there. We built two rooms and then maybe in about 1958 then we built on to that house and changed it and had three bedrooms and a bath, kitchen and a little utility room.

Louise: My dad was a carpenter and he helped us a lot.

Ellen: So when you say they sawed logs. Was this like the square lumber, sawed logs, that a lot of the homes were built of?

Don: Yep! Maybe some of them would be that wide but all of them was four inches thick.

Louise: It was funny, everybody always complaining how noisy the fairgrounds were and inside that log house you couldn't even hear it.

Don: It was a warm house to. I don't know whether the home where Milt lives is a log home.

Ellen: The front part of that home is a sawed log home.

Don: Is it?

Ellen: Then Uncle Jay helped to build on the back part of that home. It is just a frame home.

Louise: Brig Swain helped us build on our home.

Don: Do you remember Brig and Maxine Swain?

Ellen: Did they have some sort of mill or kiln?

Don: No. He was a carpenter. Built lots of houses here in town. He worked for Ashton Brothers for a long time, buildin' houses, repairin' things for them. Linda Swain was one of their daughters, Jackie Preece.

Ellen: Tell us about your children.

Louise: We had a boy that died when he was fourteen. He had Cerebral Palsy.

Don: Got Pneumonia and couldn't up-chuck it.

Louise: Our daughter, Leslie, I sent her off to beauty college and she never come home. She married a guy from Salt Lake and they were transferred to Denver. So now Leslie and our grandkids are all in Denver.

Ellen: How many grandchildren to you have?

Louise: We have one grandson and two granddaughters.

Ellen: You have Greats?

Louise: Not to many.

Don: Two great grandsons and one in the shoot and one great granddaughter. We a hopin' that the daughter that's going to have the baby on about income tax day (April 15<sup>th</sup>) it's going to be due about then. We are a hopin' that she can carry it cause she's had tough luck. She has miscarried quite a few times. She is going to have a little boy and that will make her two little boys. Then the other granddaughter had one little boy and one little girl. The grandson, he's not married. He's an interior/exterior designer for houses. The one granddaughter, she works for an outfit. I don't know, they lend money for the government or somethin', to kids go to college. Then our granddaughter runs a business like that out of her house.

Louise: (Showing us pictures) This is our Marshall. He is three years old. This is Nicholas and he is holding the new baby. This is the new baby, her name is Madison. I said, "Boy, that's a big name for a little baby. I will have to tell you about this little one. Don's nephew, Joe and Vickie

Davis, he paints cars down to Adam's Body Shop, this is their newborn baby with all that hair. Then here she is at three months when she gave us this one. I have never seen a baby with as much hair as this one has got. They couldn't have any children so they got a little five year old boy and a little girl and then the extended family took them away from them. Then they got this one as soon as she was born. Where did they go?

Don: They went to Grover, Oklahoma, just a little way out of Tulsa.

Louise: Doesn't she look like she is more than three months old.

Ellen and Doris: She is so cute, so precious.

Don: And anyway, she'll show you a picture of em' when they were handed this new baby. And anyway, they handed the baby to Vickie and you could just see in her eyes. "This is my baby and they can't take this one away from me."

Louise: This is Natalie, Leslie's second daughter and this is there new baby Madison and this is Marshall. Natalie came and stayed with us for three days and her parents went on to Salt Lake for a funeral. Natalie was going to Wal-Mart and so I said, "Nicholas, grandma's going to give you \$10. I want you to buy you somethin' up there." So he bought him some kind of a toy thing to play with. Then when they got home from Grandma Ada's out there in Salt Lake, why she give him some money. He said, "Grandma, I want to give you some of my money." Anyway, when he left I didn't know it but when he left, he put this much money for grandma. This is Lisa and Carlos, he is from Peru. He is one of the workinest guys you ever knew. When Lisa and Carlos got married he had three jobs. I said, " Carlos, I don't know how you can work at three jobs." and he said, "Well Grandma, it's like this, in my country you can't do this, but in this country you can have anything you'll work for." He said, "I'll do it so Lisa can have a new house." Then he bought her another really nice house. He runs a restaurant up there. It's called Blossoms. This Blossoms there is a senior citizen place where the people rent apartment or they have homes.

Doris: Where is that at?

Louise: It's in Denver.

Don: Well, it's in Parker, just north of Parker. Do you where about I-70 turns off of I-25? I-25 runs from Denver to Colorado Springs and then up in Denver, why I-70 turns off and goes say to Kansas and then this I-225, it turn off and this café is along that road. Just the other side of the Arapaho but quite a ways this side of the Denver airport.

Louise: And this our Leslie. This is what she looked like when we had her. This is Nicholas.

Ellen: How old is Leslie?

Don: Well, you're 79 so she is 59.

Ellen: I remember her.

Louise: I sent her off to beauty college in Salt Lake and she never come home. I should have kept her home.

Doris: Have you got any old pictures of you and Don?

Don: Oh! We would have em'. That's just like me. I tried to find my dang geneology sheets and I couldn't find em. I thought I had em' there in that piano bench and then she thought they was in under the little bedroom bed. They weren't there. Anyway, we didn't get no wedding pictures.

Louise: I don't know why we didn't get any pictures then.

Don: But then we had pictures every now and again you know. We've got a million pictures and we didn't write on em'. And we don't even know who they are now.

Louise: Like when we bought this place and we kept the other one down there for quite a while and then we sold it. Don was in the hospital with cancer and Don's niece from over to Lapoint come and moved. Everything is out in that garage that come from that other place. I look in that garage and I just shut the door.

Doris: Well, if you ever find them, we would love to have a picture of you when you were young.

Don: We'll have to look. All we would have to find is Flora's pictures. I'll look and see. I'll tell you to that I drove truck and pushed truck for R.W. Bob Jones for seven and one half years and then I ran the Texaco Bulk Plant. I ran it for eleven years. I was the consignee. You might say I was the owner but I wasn't. Texaco owned it. I was to keep it in products through them. When I sold them products, they would give me a commission. With it I would order all my oils and everything from Port Arthur, Texas, and I ordered all of my gasoline from American in Salt Lake and then the Frontier Pipe line out of Denver in the summer time. They made me get product from over there cause Salt Lake never had enough. I ran it for say, eleven years and then I and Bryce Erickson, we was going to by the Bowling Alley one time but we went to old Mexico fishin' and anyway, thrashed all this through us, you know, and decided what we were goin' to do and anyway, well Bryce ran the Bowling Alley and anyway he was going to bring it up in a board meeting that we wanted to buy it and this is when Vernal went to heck, say in about 1972 or 1973. He told em' like how much he thought it was worth and how much we would give. They had the meeting secretly and then they come back to Bryce, I don't remember, they wanted about \$15,000 more. Bryce didn't think we better do it. We didn't do it. I worked one year at the Bowling Alley for Bryce and then I took and filled out an application to go to work for Questar, like the gas company now. I worked thirteen years for them. Then I retired from them. **They took** and when I was workin' for them the last seven years I worked I was in measurement and control and I calibrated meters. Not like this one that is out in back of the house but like the ones that are on gas line and oil wells and pipe lines. I done that the last seven years. I got a hold of the personal lady and I told her that at the end of 1986 I wanted to retire so I retired Jan 1 1987. I have been retired quite a long time.

Ellen: You worked quite a long time!

Louise: But we had their insurance. Like when Don had that cancer, that really helped us. That saved us.

Don: They were really good, a good outfit. Everybody that works for em' really has a million dollars worth of insurance and like me, this is in we'll say sort of fine print this million dollars you know, anyway they have good insurance anyway that will take care of you but on somethin' drastic like heart attacks, cancer and that why they had this million dollar thing and more or less when you spend \$1500 out of your pocket. They kick in and pay a hundred percent after that, what medicare won't pay. They only hold \$20 out on certain things, you know. By the time I got to \$1500 paid in I was really in it about \$4000 and they took and kicked in and what medicare didn't pay why they paid it 100 percent. Anything pertainin' to cancer why they still pay 100 percent on cancer. Anyway, they like with my cancer bills was about \$375,000 medicare has paid a lot of it and they picked up the rest. I think man what's \$4000 to the side of that. With it when I retired I got to bring their insurance home, like hospital and prescriptions, like on this new prescription thing the principle insurance company administers their insurance. They wrote me a letter pert' near a year ago and said that when this was all that takes place to not sign up with nobody cause there price would be better, a buyin' pills and like that. So I never done a thing about nothin and I leave things like it is.

Louise: He bought stock in the company and we get a dividend every three months. It has really helped us to.

Don: I don't have my stock to sell to try to make more money that way. Man, our stock is up to pert near \$90 a share but I don't want to sell none of mine. All I want is that dividend three months they deposit it in the bank and that supplements our livin' and we don't have to skimp, we can live a comfortable life. Then I draw a little pension from em' every month and then when I retired why they said the personal lady come from Salt Lake out and talked to me. She explained everything to me and she said, "If you'll give us back right now seven and a half percent of what your retirement check will be, the day you die your wife will receive what your receivin' right now. Nothin' will change. I told her that I would like to go for that cause women live longer than men. That was fine. I don't know, I might live so dang long that they'll have to give me up. They have really been a good company.

Ellen: Don I Davis, What does the "I" stand for?

Don: Well, that a pretty long story. My mother said when I was born that it was going to be say Don Davis and they wanted to have my middle name Ivan and they used to be an Ivan **Kolb** that lived in Roosevelt. They had a daughter, for instance, named LaDonna Kolb and anyway she married Kay Winn from Lapoint years ago. Anyway, her and Kay was divorced before Kay got killed out there in Strawberry that morning and so they named me Don Ivin but then when the birth certificate came it was Don Ivan. So my name is Don Ivin Davis most of the time, but social security and on my cancer stuff, why you had to go back say on your birth certificate and social security so I had to take Don Ivan with the "A" in for all business purposes. I go by Don Ivin.

Louise: And he has got two birthdays.

Ellen: Oh really!

Don: His mother said he was born just a little bit before midnight and when we sent for his birth certificate, well his mother said he was born on the twenty-first of September just before midnight and the birth certificate said he was born on the twenty-second. So his birth certificate says something and his mother says something else.

Ellen: Did you serve in any branch of the service?

Louise: They would not let him.

Don: No.

Louise: He would have done if he could have.

Ellen: I am sure that he would have.

Ellen to Doris: I wondered about asking about the Jackson's.

Ellen: Do you remember anything about the Jackson Brothers that lived out in the hills?

Don: Well, a little bit cause my brother was married to one of their sisters. Butch was married to Louella. She was the middle daughter. Tex Davis was married to Pearl. I and Tex we never could find any ties. Anyways, Tex was married to Pearl and Butch was married to Louella and Lenore was married to Dean Cady from Dinosaur. They divorced later and Butch and Louella they divorced, too. I used to kind of know the biggest end of em' but really not personally.

Ellen: We are trying to come up with, we have a couple of different stories that we are trying to find the right way on. One of the brother was rejected from the service because he was illerate. We don't know where that was Charles or Deloss, Parl or Walkie.

Don: Well, Walkie, he was okay. But really he was slower than the rest of em'. Bill the oldest one of the bunch that married the Gurr girl [Madge] why, I really think he was the smartest one of the bunch. Worked out to them gilsonite mines for umpteen years. On Walkie, I never did like to be around em' cause they drank. If I was drunk, I hated any one sober and if I was sober I hated anyone drunk. Them Jackson boys, they was always a drinkin'. Anyway, my brother, Butch fit into em' good cause he drank a lot. Anyway, he was the type of guy that thought he could whip say Joe Louis. He couldn't whip a sick chicken.

Don: Anyway on them Jackson boys, I really didn't mingle much with em'. They was always drinkin'.

Doris: Let me ask you one question. When they deserted and went to the hills. Andy went first. Who went next Parl or Walkie?

Don: I think Parl went next and then

Doris: Charles is Parl.

Ellen: Walkie is Deloss.

Don: But like your sayin', I really think that is the way it wound up. One went. One of em' come home on a furlough, you know.

Doris: That was Walkie.

Don: Anyway, he was comin' home on this furlough, you know, he sent home someway and they knew he was a comin' and anyway then when he come home some of his brothers, they started sayin' that so and so let us know he was a comin' home on a furlough, and heck when he come home, he come home on a bus. Anyway that was the only way he could come home is on a bus. We'll say that is how illerate that they were. They just didn't know nothin.

Louise: Don's sister, Flora, had a little boy called Bobby. Him and his friend across the street always played like they was Roy Rogers and Gene Autry and Vic would say to em', "I'm Andy Jackson. Andy Jackson is a lot more of a cowboy than those two." We was going the Main Street in Vernal one day. This Andy Jackson was comin' up and he was all hairy and Bobby said, "Who's that mama?" Mama said, "That's Andy Jackson." Bobby said, "Andy Jackson!"

Doris: Better than a movie star!

Don: He just bellered it out. You know like a kid ill' do. You would have thought that this Andy Jackson to him was the greatest man on earth. Louise and Flora, they was speechless.

Louise Anyway when he seen Andy Jackson he thought he had seen the best person in the world.

Doris: Well Dick DeJournette said that Walkie went after Andy and then Parl. Louella said that it was Andy and then Parl and then Walkie.

Don: I couldn't help you a bit. I never did talk to Louella about the brothers.

Ellen: It is a real sore subject with her. She thinks that people in Vernal have never forgot and they hold that against the Jackson family. Heavens now days nobody even knows about it.

Don: Ya. They don't and the ones of us that know, we'll say what they done was right. I have always felt this way that what they done was right cause they did not know better. I would imagine in that Army, life would not be to good for we'll say a dumb cluck. Them dang sargents, they would really railroad ya, you know. Just like, I don't know whether it was Walkie or Parl or which ever one but they would be down in Crouse Canyon and they said a lot of the time as they rode them horses

down we could have just went down and picked their hats right off their head. Thank goodness they didn't kill nobody. Thank goodness the sheriff, I don't know but what he might have knowed where they were and the same way with the DeJournettes. They would come into the DeJournettes camp and help theirself, take food and Ford DeJornette, he expected it and done it for at least.

Doris: Well, their dad was working for him. He wouldn't tell. Dick said the sheriff come out there one time and asked him if he knew where they were. He said "Well no, but I could probably find em' in a hour." It made the sheriff mad cause he had been looking for them for fourteen months.

Don: It was good that they never did find em'.

Doris: Most people just laughed about it. That's the reason they gave their self up because their dad got worried when the FBI came and they were shootin and stuff. He was worried that one of them was going to get shot or that they were going to shoot somebody. So he got William Siddoway and some of them. He talked to them and the dad said you better come in and they'll take care of you.

Don: I was glad when they come in and we'll say freed em'. I don't even know whether any of them got a dishonorable discharge.

Doris: Well what they did is they put em' in prison. They sent Parl and Andy back that way somewhere and they sent Walkie to Phoenix to the Army Brig. They would give them a pardon if they would go into the service. So they did have to go into the service but they didn't keep em' long.

Don: The war would be kind of over and boy you take someone that is not all together. They would have to go in that army and be up on that front line.

Doris: The next younger one down was named Barge. He got his call and he wanted to go with em'. His dad really talked him out of it. He went into the service, but he wasn't in there very long either. He told Dick DeJournette, "Well I know how to handle the service, you just play dumb." Dick said that he taught Barge how to write his name.

Louise I don't think they ever went to school, did they?

Ellen

Doris: A little bit.

Louise Probably Louella did.

Ellen: She said she did.

Doris: I think she went till she was in high school then she got married before she graduated about three years and that Lenore was in my class. I was born in 1932 along with all the kids but she was born in 1930 so I don't know whether she got held back or didn't get started or what. She went in high school for a couple of year and quit. Louella said that none of them graduated.

Don: Like Butch and Louella when they got married why they eventually built a little house down where that lumber shop is down by the Crack'd Pot Resturant (1089 East Highway 40). Her and Butch built a house there and then Dean Cady he married Lenore and he built a house just to the east of Butch and Louella and then eventually and Butch and Louella got a divorce and Dean and Lanore did to. Before Lanore died, I can remember that her and her husband, they had got a divorce or somethin' but she was livin' about where that Big Foot Fly Shop (38 North 400 West) where that big fish hook is up in the air by Betty's Café (416 West Main). She married a Himes.

Ellen: We didn't ever mention Louise's maiden name?



Louise: Mills, my dad was born in Mt.Pleasant. He went to school out there to the Wasatch Academy. He played basketball out there. All the basketball games in Neola, why we would have to go watch them. My mother was a Hutcheon. You know the Hutcheon's, Max and Joyce. They are my relatives, first cousin. Grandpa and Grandma Hutcheon lived in Scotland. Grandpa learned to be a plasterer when he was back there and he had a brother that lived in Missouri, anyway he left there when he was seventeen I think. He already knew the trade. He went to his brothers house and when he got enough money saved he sent for Grandma Hutcheon and she came over. They worked in Salt Lake on the City/County Building till it got finished and then Grandpa Hutcheon decided they would move to Vernal. The house that is right in back of True Value (280 West Main)

Doris: The old McNaughton House.

Louise Now they have painted it white and that made me mad. They built that house in Vernal.

Ellen: That house was sitting out on Main Street at one time, right?

Doris: Yes.

Don: It's a historical house down there now.

Louise I felt bad when I saw they had painted all the brick work. They built that house. They had Arthur Hutcheon, who was Max's dad. When the boys grew up Grandpa thought the boys needed more to do so he moved the family to Neola for a homestead. They had a big farm over there and Grandpa built a house over there, too. He was quite a man. Never met quite a nicer man than Grandpa Hutcheon.

Don: Him and ol' N.J. Meagher, why they was ol' buddies and N.J. lived with them for quite a while.

Louise Well that house I said that Grandpa built. It had an upstairs bedroom and N.J. Meagher lived in the upstairs until he moved. He sent for his wife it was in some country to come and when she came, why they moved out of there. The Zion's bank, before they done all that inside work, Grandpa Hutcheon had a lot of the plaster molding up in it, in the ceilings. I went down there and they was tearing it up and I asked them if I could have some and so they give me two or three pieces of that molding. I showed them to my Aunt Helen and she was so thrilled so I gave them to her. But if you look at that bank clear to the top on the outside it still has some of Grandpa Hutcheon's moldings. If he would walk down the street in Roosevelt, every time he would see a lady he would tip his hat.

Doris: We really appreciate your stories.

Don: Now, do you want me to, like I may find my geneology sheets, and if not I will be Roosevelt one of these days and I can get all that from Jerry, my niece through marriage. She is the daughter of Alice and Verdin Heaton that say owns Big O Tire Company. I can get all that from her.